BATTLEFIELDS of BRITAIN by Stanley Baron

The nutcracker closed on a brave rabble

TWO hundred and sixty eight years ago last Wednesday there died horribly, in the Tower of London, from five bungled blows of Jack Ketch's axe, the bastard son of Charles the Second.

Twice in his lifetime he had been proclaimed "King" Monmouth.

For his last steps to the block he was hauled, terrified and dishevelled, out of a ditch in Cranborne Chase in Dorset two days' ride from the battlefield of Sedgemoor.

He had fled there, leaving hundreds of poor country farmers and workmen to be mown down by the small arms fire of the government troops, to be caught, gagged, whipped, imprisoned, or, after a mockery of trial, given like pack-animals to those favoured by the court and by it were sold into slavery in the English plantations.

A champion

Monmouth's volunteer army had gathered to his colours, after his landing at Lyme Regis from Holland 3½ weeks earlier, for two reasons. In a flamboyant way, with a flash of the prince-charming, he had gained great personal popularity, and cultivated it well, during the 21 years before his final banishment.

Aoove all, he seemed to the simple puritan men of the west to be a champion against both Popery and tyranny.

Three and a half weeks' fruitless campaigning had quenched their hopes but not their loyalty when, on the night of July 5-6, the last march began.

It was Monmouth's old battle companions Lord Feversham and John Churchill (afterwards Duke of Marlborough) who set the trap.

New look

Sedgemoor has changed a good deal since 1685. An airfield lies close to the battle scene, new rivers have been cut and old dykes and drains filled in — one of them the Bussex Rhine, along which the royalist army encamped near Weston-zoyland, four miles east of Bridgwater.

Yet there is one similarity, for on this low-lying land, barely 20 feet above sea-level, hemmed on one side by the gentle Polden Hills and the other by the Quantocks' outliers, summer nights often still bring damp, dense mists, through which, even at dawn, a man can scarcely see forty or fifty yards.

To bring a trained army across an unknown semi-marsh under such conditions would need great luck and better generalship. Yet with his brave rabble, that is what Monmouth attempted — and almost accomplished, thanks less to himself than to their own great loyalty.

Among his supporters was a farmer named Sparks. A man of Chedzoy, a small village in the heart of the moor, he had watched from the church tower while Feversham disposed the pick of the English army in line behind the 20-foot Bussex Rhine and sent two detachments of cavalry forward over the moor—one to Chedzoy itself and the other to the nearby village of Bawdrip, commanding a possible escape route for Monmouth toward Bristol.

Silence

This information, with news that the government army had ranged its 17 guns on the left, he sent to Monmouth, who was persuaded by it to attack. In complete silence he led his 3,600 men (800 mounted) three miles along the old Bristol road, thus by-passing Chedzoy. Half a mile short of Bawdrip having parked his ammunition wagons, the column wheeled south, aiming in the dark for a ford across the Langmoor Rhine, which they found with some difficulty about 1.45 a.m.

First across the great ditch were Monmouth's cavalry, followed by two of the five regiments of foot. Each man of his army had been ordered that if his neighbour made a sound he should be stabbed.

The shot

There was no sound until, around two o'clock, a shot split the night, fired by a trooper from the government army's advance post at Chedzoy, where Sir Francis Compton was in command.

Now began a race. Sending a messenger furiously over the moor to drum the main army to their action stations, Compton galloped his 150 cavalrymen toward the main crossing of the Bussex Rhine for which he judged Monmouth or his second in command, Lord Grey, would be heading.

Rushing his own cavalry ahead of the infantry, Grey twice clashed twice with Compton but was too late. Driven back from the crossing his untrained troopers found themselves riding athwart the whole of Feversham's line of fire, from which in panic they fled back to the north, overrunning the infantry coming up.

If the pessantry had run at this point, many would have been saved, but they came on to within a hundred yards of the royal army and there stood firing until their ammunition was spent. Beside them, Monmouth fought with brave desperation.

With daylight came massacre. Six guns brought up to the centre of the government side silenced the rebels' three, shot from behind the ditch came the disciplined troops of the regular army.

Like the jaws of a nut-cracker, the cavalry pressed in on the pitiful rebel flanks. While the fire across the ditch increased, Monmouth fled.

Old story

And in the parish register, the Vicar of Westonzoyland, the Rev. Richard Alford, wrote this account:

"The Jniadgement began between one and two of the Clock in the morning. It continued for one Hour and halfe. Their was kild upon the spott of the King's souldiers sixtenn : fifve of them Buried in the Church : The rest in the Church yeard : and they all had Christian Burial.

"One Hundred or more of the King's Souldiers wounded of wch. wounds many died : of wch. wee have no certaine account.

"Their was kild of the Rebils upon the spott about 300 : Hanged with us : 22 : of which 4 were hanged in Gemmacess : About 500 prisoners brought into our Church. of wch. there was 79 wounded and : 5 : of them died of thire wounds in our Church.

"Paid John Jones and Andrew Elroy ffor cleansing of the Church. 0 10s. 6d.

"Paid ffor ffranckenssence and peirye (Saltpetre) and reffon (Resin) and other things to burn in ye Church after ye prissoners was gon out. 0 5s. 8d."

I'm out to defeat the weather

WHAT are we going to eat next year? Well, vegetables, for one thing, and I'm going to sow my spring cabbages pretty soon.

says Albert GURIE

who is planning the cabbage patch in HIS new garden

Of all the varieties of cabbage, none is more finicky over locality and the soil than the spring cabbage. I have therefore inquired about the sorts likely to do well in our new home garden.

This is much better than experimenting with varieties which may have already been tried by others.

In any case, preparations should be made now for raising plants for the spring and early summer cabbage patch, for it is necessary to give the soil time to settle since all brassicas like to be sown and grown in a firm soil.

From the third week in July to the end of the first week in August is the recognised period in which to sow. According to district, however, the time is even more exacting. And, of course, no one knows what the weather will be like during the next month or two. I am, therefore, making allowances for these factors.

The hazards

Being in Sussex my object will be to obtain strong, hardy plants ready to put out during September and the first half of October. Should the weather be warm and damp it may be that the plants will be too forward then, and the chances are that they will run to seed in the spring instead of turning-in, as gardeners say.

On the other hand, they may be backward and very weak, in which case a cold winter would be a severe trial resulting probably in no cabbages for cutting from April onwards.

I intend, therefore, to make the venture less of a gamble. I shall try to defeat the weather by making two sowings, one during the coming week and another ten to 15 days later, and planting on from which-ever batch shows the sturdiest plants, or perhaps selecting plants from both batches.

In the north

If you live in the north the two sowings should be made before this month is out.

In a firm seed bed, situated in a sunny spot which can be protected from birds, I shall sow our seed in drills 9 inches or so apart. If the soil happens to be dry, the drills will be filled with water several times, allowing it to soak well each time. The seeds will then be sown thinly and covered with a layer of dry sifted soil, which will gradually become moist without caking as does heavy soil when watered after sowing.

If all goes well, some of the seedlings should be ready to put out in their final quarters early in September, and I shall continue planting well into October. I shall plant out the strongest fellows first, followed by others as they reach the standard which seems to show promise that they will pull through the winter.

Gardeners in the north, however, must endeavour to complete all planting by the first week in October to give the roots a chance to become thoroughly established in their new positions before wintry conditions arrive. Plant in rows 18in. apart and space the plants 12 to 15 inches apart in the rows.

Wife's view

Spring cabbages like a fairly rich soil. I shall see that the ground is adequately limed, it only to ward off club-root disease. An ample dressing to our virgin soil would be 8oz. to the square yard of hydrated lime, and as the top 12 inches of soil seem to have a good natural organic content, nothing more will be applied until next spring.

My wife believes in bringing up spring cabbages in the hard way, that is, making the roots search for their nourishment. I agree. And the harder the soil, too, the better.

★

[The culture of all vegetables is dealt with comprehensively in the News Chronicle Gardening Book by Albert Gurie. It covers also hardy flowers and fruits, garden design and planting. From all booksellers, price 7s. 6d., or by post 8s. from News Chronicle Publications Department.]

Looking at TV

A WHOLE HOUR OF HARDING

By JAMES THOMAS

THE Sunday night television audience which has argued for years over Gilbert Harding's likes and dislikes in "What's My Line?" is to have a unique opportunity to sort out the situation on August 16.

For the B.B.C., trembling slightly at the risk, has allotted Harding a whole hour that Sunday evening in which to illustrate his foibles.

The blunt and controversial Harding, one of the few real characters TV has produced, is being badly missed now his regular quiz show is resting. Producer Bill Ward thought up the Harding-explains-himself programme to get him back on the screen for an evening.

On his list

Harding has made his list. From these will be chosen enough to illustrate the character of the Man with a Load of Diehard Opinions:

DISLIKES (by Harding): The Americans' way in which the British accept filthy food and bad service in restaurants. Bores who tell long, dreary stories. Men and women who smear lipstick on glasses and talk with cigarettes hanging out of their mouths. Women who delay you by never having the right change on buses or at ticket offices.

LIKES will be easier to demonstrate. Reading in asking Philip Harben, the TV chef to turn up and show him how to cook an omelette, inviting comedy conjurer Tommy Cooper to do some tricks he doesn't understand, taking some tips from an ideal hostess, hoping to get Robert Herrin to read his favourite poetry.

Choice of music

And he wants an orchestra to play Chabrier's "Espana," a pianist to play "Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring," and someone to sing "Who Are You, Dusky Woman?"

Somewhere on the borderline are TV's dancing team, the Twelve Toppers. Harding said last night: "I would like them in the studio to see if I can get used to them."

Harding wants the programme to be called "A Little of What You Fancy."

COLONEL PEWTER by HORNER

BARGAINS BY POST

OFFERED FOR THE FIRST TIME TO THE PUBLIC
COMMANDO INFLATABLE BOATS 35/-
HOLIDAY NOW 4 yrs. 5 ft. mouth inflated. 2 air chambers with separate valves. Weight only 5½lbs. Full instructions given. Ideal for holidays, fishing, shooting, etc. Carry anywhere. Send P.O. for 35/- now. Limited supply. ORDER FOR FREE DELIVERY. Jeff Stores (Hatt Order) Ltd. (Dept. H.C.), 408, Green Street, Upton Park, E.13. Personal Shoppers Welcome.

MATTRESS COVERS ARE HYGIENIC
Strong, unbleached washable calico. All 6ft. 6in. long.

Width	Box Type	Box Type	Box Type
	Bag	5in. deep	7in. deep
3ft. 0in.	21/6	23/6	24/6
3ft. 6in.	23/-	25/-	26/-
4ft. 0in.	24/6	27/-	28/-

Postage 1/- per bag.
— FLANNELETTE SHEETS —
Pastel Shades. Green, pink, blue, peach. 54"x90" 24/- per pair.
EIDERDOWN COVERS Beautiful Taffeta Slipover style. Colours: Green, Rose, Gold. Full double bed size. Postage & packing 1/6 (2 or more 1/-) 35/-
VORLAN LTD., 34, FAULKNER STREET, MANCHESTER, 1 (Dept. H.C.6)

THE NEW "Teamaster" HEAT RETAINING TEAPOT
Guaranteed first-grade earthenware. Capacity 2 pints. Strong dining-piece pot lined with aluminium cover with thick felt lining. A beautiful coloured piece, fit for any table. 8/9 Post and Pkg. 1/9
O. I. LAWSON & COMPANY, 46, Church Street, Twickenham, Middlesex

GUARANTEED HEAVY GAUGE STEEL SAFETY SWING
for children and adults. Will take 4 persons. Over 7ft. high, 6ft. 2in. wide. Strong tubular chains to break; strong wooden seat; strong wooden safety seat bar. Will not scratch; requires no attention; rustproof finish. Made to withstand years of hard use. Carriage and packing 5/- extra. Send 5/- deposit, balance 5/- carr. to
FURNITURE FITMENTS (Dept. H.C.), 400 Green St., Upton Park, E.13. Tel.: GRA 2623

FAMOUS 50-MILE (DIAM. OR LESS) LIEBERMAN & GORTZ PRISMATIC BINOCULARS Sent for 39/6
The most powerful Continental glasses made. Amazing clarity in definition. Centre focus and separate eye adjustment. Day and night lenses. Size 7 x 3½in. Complete with case. Price 39/6. Post and Pkg. 1/9
GERMAN VILLANDER. Only 5½". Only Lightest German 6-power binocular with bending bridge. Wonderful Powerful lenses centre focus. Size 5½" x 4½". Weight 6½ ozs. Complete with case. Price 55/-. Post and Pkg. 1/9
HEADQUARTER 8, GENERAL SUPPLIES LTD (N.C.W. 10), 100 Commercial Road, London, E.1. Open all day. 1 p.m. Wed.

TWO-IN-ONE BARGAIN CAR COVER AND GROUNDSHEET
A wonderful bargain for any car owner, for Camping purposes. Tough single textured fabric. 15ft. 9in. by 8ft. 6in. to fit the shape of any car up to 14 h.p. from boot to bonnet. Gives complete protection from sun, rain, frost and snow. With eyelets for securing in windy weather. Also makes a waterproof groundsheet on picnics, camping outside, etc. Strength when fully tried and tested. Usual Price 75/-. Our offer 20/- only and 3 monthly payments of 20/-. Carriage paid.
BARGAIN DISTRIBUTORS, Dept. 33, 16, STUART STREET, LUTON

Wooden Single WARDROBES
Ex. W.D. 6ft. x 1ft. 8ins. x 1ft. 8ins. 75/-. Carr. 7/6.
Ex.-Govt. Reconditioned Wooden FOLDING TABLES with lino tops, strong and rigid. Ideal for Camping, Clubs, Homes, etc. 2ft. 3ins. by 2ft. 3ins. 30/- Carriage per table 5/6.
WIGWAM PLAY TENT with centre pole, adjustable metal joints. White cotton canvas parachute material reinforced waterproof silver top, metal pegs, height 5ft. 10in. 21/6.
BROADWAY & CO. (Dept. H.C.), 16, High Road, Ilford, Essex.

A SWIMMING POOL for 57/3 !!
THIS is IT
Did you see "PICTURE PAGE FROM A FRENCHIE'S ANGLE" on Tuesday? It beautifully decorated Paltoy Playpool in a field for children to play in during summer days in the garden, they'll adore it. 6 ft. diameter, capacity about 50 gallons, it weighs only 20 cwt. and will pack in a briefcase. IMMEDIATE DELIVERY 57/3 post free from
PALTOY, CLARKE & VIDLER LTD., 1 & 2, Poultry, London, E.C.2. (Dept. H.C.), or send postcard for fuller details. Est. 1919

You too can take wonderful "snaps" with the amazing ENVOY BOX CAMERA
The Finest for PORTRAITS or VIEWS
SENT PER RETURN ONLY 39/9 Post & Pkg. 1/6 extra
Full size Pictures 2½" x 2½". Each one finished, ready for mounting. Fitted with Achromatic Lens, Optical Viewfinder, Sharp Shutter. Takes 8 exposures on 620 film. Instruction booklet and sample picture with camera.
Ideal for Home and Colour Snapshots. Price 39/6 (plus 1/6 post & pkg.)
Also 'Tropical' Model for Colour Snapshots. Price 49/6 (plus 1/6 post & pkg.)
Complete with Yellow, Blue, Red Filters, Sunshine Guide, etc.
"GREYPLAST" LTD. (Dept. H.C.), 138, Tamworth Rd., Croydon. Tel. 1119. CROydon 4086.7

SOMETHING QUITE NEW!
The "ORNITOPTER" — "Pronto" Type. The designed to slip over your table, it can be taken off when not required. Screws, screws or nails required. Made to the size of your table, it is a beautiful almost invisible cover which will not spoil your table. Ideal for the protection of the shades of light, etc. Only 30 ins. by 30 ins. Price 4/11. Postage 1/- extra. Colours: grey, brown. Extremely strong. Also 'Tropical' Model. Just state size required. Price 5/11 (plus 1/- post & pkg.)
Ideal for Homes and Cafes. Spectacular price: 7/6 (plus 1/- post & pkg.) Also 9/6 (plus 1/- post & pkg.)
16"x11" 18"x 11" 20"x 11" 24"x 11"
FORMICA TRAYS
Also 'Tropical' Tables, Bath Panels, etc.
"GREYPLAST" LTD. (Dept. H.C.), 138, Tamworth Rd., Croydon. Tel. 1119. CROydon 4086.7

SUMMER SALE
NAVY & KHAKI DRILL SHIRTS
A really fine-quality hardwearing shirt. Well cut, with two pockets, long sleeves and attached collar.
10/3 SIZES 14 to 16½ inches
Post and Pkg. 1/- for 1. 1/6 for 2 or more.
Never refund guarantee. Send for FREE Catalogue.
H. C. PAREDALE TRADING COMPANY, 72, Archway Road, London, N.19.

GREAT CAMPING OFFER
RIDGE TENT size 6' 6" 39/6
Length 7'3" sleeping base 6'6" wide 4'6" 6" centre height 3'6". Complete with Flysheet, Guys, Runners, Runner Pegs, Mallet, Mosquito Net, Groundsheet, Valance, Pockets, Poles,